

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, do you wish to take the amendments first?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, the committee amendments strike the assessment language from the bill so that there is no provision for the assessment of the cost of this study. The study costs will be borne by the industry themselves. I move for the adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on the committee amendments? If not, the question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on the adoption of the committee amendments. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. There are no other amendments. Senator Schmit, we're back on the bill.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, when this bill was drafted for introduction there was considerable discussion in the power industry as to whether or not the industry had adapted itself to the changing needs and developments within the state relative to agriculture, industry and business. There was widespread concern that perhaps some of the needs were not being met and perhaps that maybe some of the various entities were not restructuring themselves as efficiently as they could in order to hold down the cost of power and to provide low cost electrical service to the people of the State of Nebraska. This bill was introduced as a method of encouraging the industry to conduct a study. I will just tell you that the industry is, at the present time, conducting a study. They have not reported to us, except informally. And I believe that it is of some importance that we continue to encourage the discussion and the developments that have been precipitated by this bill, and that the power industry does complete that study and submit its report by December 31st of 1988. It is not an expensive bill, it is one which will provide some information. It is mostly a study in internal structure and one which we think will be beneficial to all of us. I would suggest that the bill be advanced to Select File.